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27 March 1957

Mr. Roger G. Seely, Chief
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Roger:

Subject: Pole Rights

Yesterday Mr. Robert S. Billingsley came from USCAR to discuss pole rights, a subject about which there has been nothing but silence for a long time. His pre-discussion conception of what FBIS meant by pole rights was that FBIS wanted a certain area around each pole and free access to the poles but would then return the remainder of the land to the owners. This, of course, is not in agreement with an FBIS memorandum delivered to Mr. Davies of USCAR 13 April to Chief, FBIS, subject: Pole Point Land. Mr. Billingsley was told that FBIS could not accept an arrangement along the lines of his conception of pole rights.

The following was given orally as an outline of FBIS desires concerning an easement, or pole rights:

1. The area should be considered as a whole, that is, the owner of a tract of land would receive the same money he would be entitled to under an easement whether or not he had a pole on his particular tract. (There are 766 tracts in the [redacted] of FBIS land at Pole Point.)

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2. The Okinawans would be restricted as follows:

a. They would not be permitted to add to existing structures or to build additional ones.

b. They would be permitted no electricity.

c. They must not damage or interfere with FBIS poles, wires, etc.

3. FBIS would permit cultivation of land so long as there was no interference with equipment.

4. For its lesser interest FBIS would expect to pay at a lower rate than under full-control lump-sum payment.

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5. FBIS would want the land for an indefinite period, pay in a lump sum, and not restore the land in case of departure.

6. FBIS would make no payment for crops damaged but in its entry, antenna rehabilitation work, etc., would make every effort to avoid damaging crops.

Mr. Billingsley was told that Headquarters is negotiating at the Washington level and that my statement of FBIS desires would have to be confirmed by Headquarters before FBIS could be committed.

In view of the possible unfavorable outcome of the village power problem Pennwell is worried about the spread of the village into that area of land between the Rota airstrip and the southwestern and western boundaries of the antenna field. Mr. Billingsley was therefore told that FBIS may wish to obtain even more land under easement than that now under discussion. Such a request will not be formally presented, however, unless you approve.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
Chief, FBIS Okinawa Bureau

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